

20
YEARS OF
IDW
ISSUE
23
COVER A

SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG

TM



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STORY SO FAR...

Dr. Eggman has unleashed a Metal Virus capable of infecting living organic matter and turning it into zombie-like robots (Zombots) that can infect others and that respond only to his command. As the Metal Virus spreads, cities and heroes—including Sonic himself—have been infected.

Now, Tails finds himself in Central City, researching a cure...

...Amy organizes rescue missions from Restoration HQ...

...And Sonic races to create speed data for Tails's research...

...As it all comes down to the last minute!

ROLL CALL



SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
The Blue Blur.
Fastest thing alive.



DR. EGGMAN
Mad Genius.
Eggman Empire.



DR. STARLINE
Aspiring Villain.
Eggman Empire.



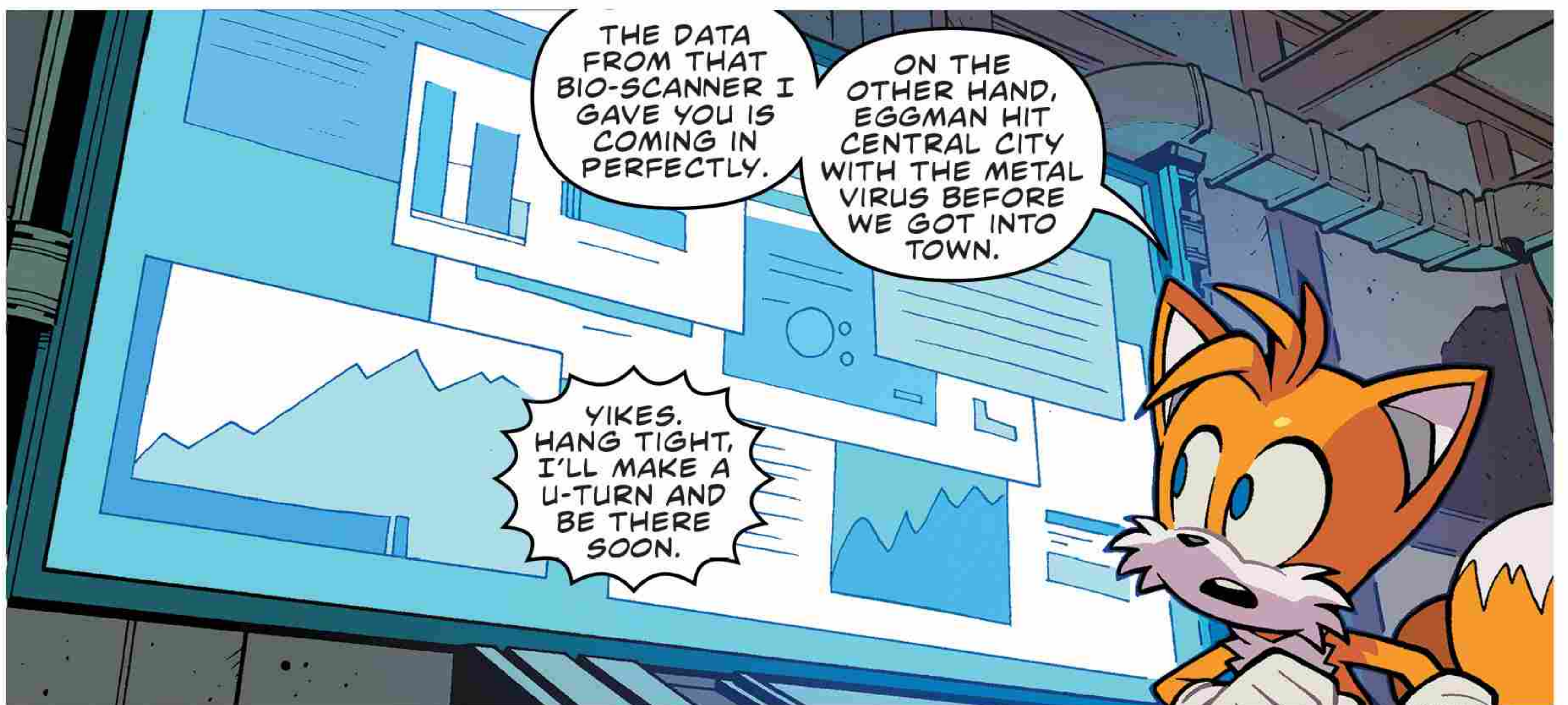
YO,
TAILS! YOU
THERE?

I'M HERE!
WHERE ARE
YOU?

I'M NOT
FAR OUTSIDE
OF BARRICADE
TOWN.

EVERYTHING
GOING WELL
ON YOUR
END?

YES
AND VERY
MUCH
NO.



THE DATA
FROM THAT
BIO-SCANNER I
GAVE YOU IS
COMING IN
PERFECTLY.

ON THE
OTHER HAND,
EGGMAN HIT
CENTRAL CITY
WITH THE METAL
VIRUS BEFORE
WE GOT INTO
TOWN.

YIKES.
HANG TIGHT,
I'LL MAKE A
U-TURN AND
BE THERE
SOON.

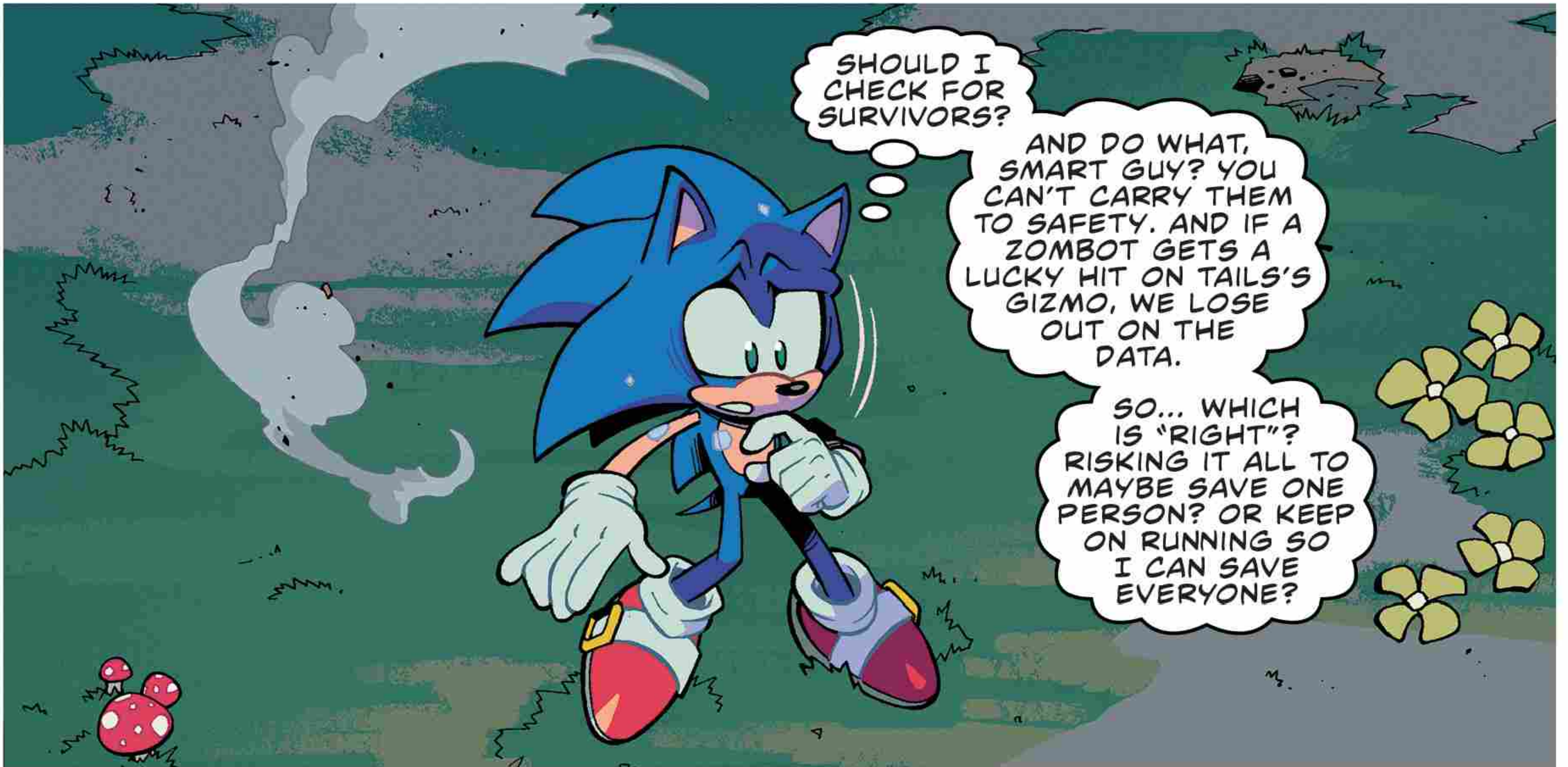
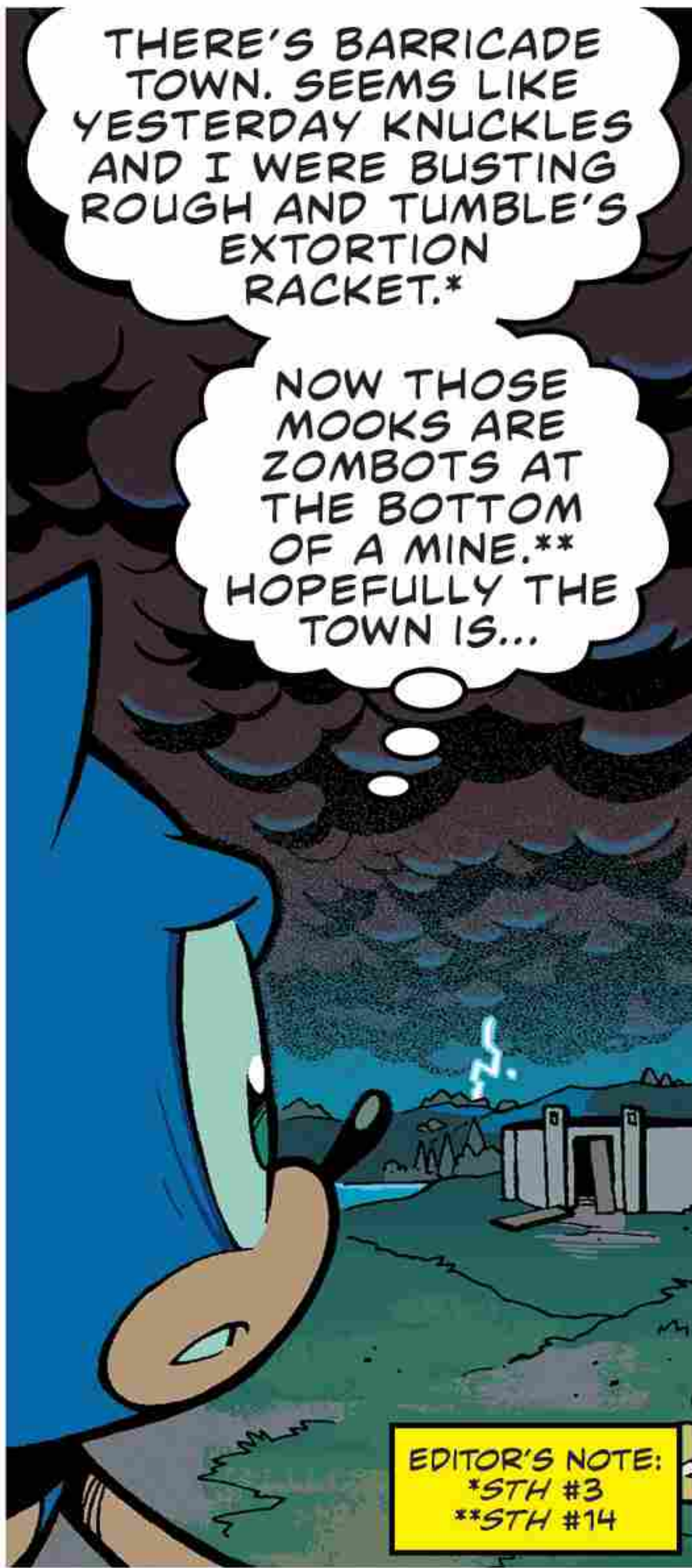


NO-NO-NO!
YOU KEEP
RUNNING!

WE NEED
YOUR SPEED
DATA. IT MAY BE
THE ONLY KEY TO
FINDING A CURE! PLUS,
IT'LL BE A BACKUP IN
CASE SOMETHING
HAPPENS ON
MY END.

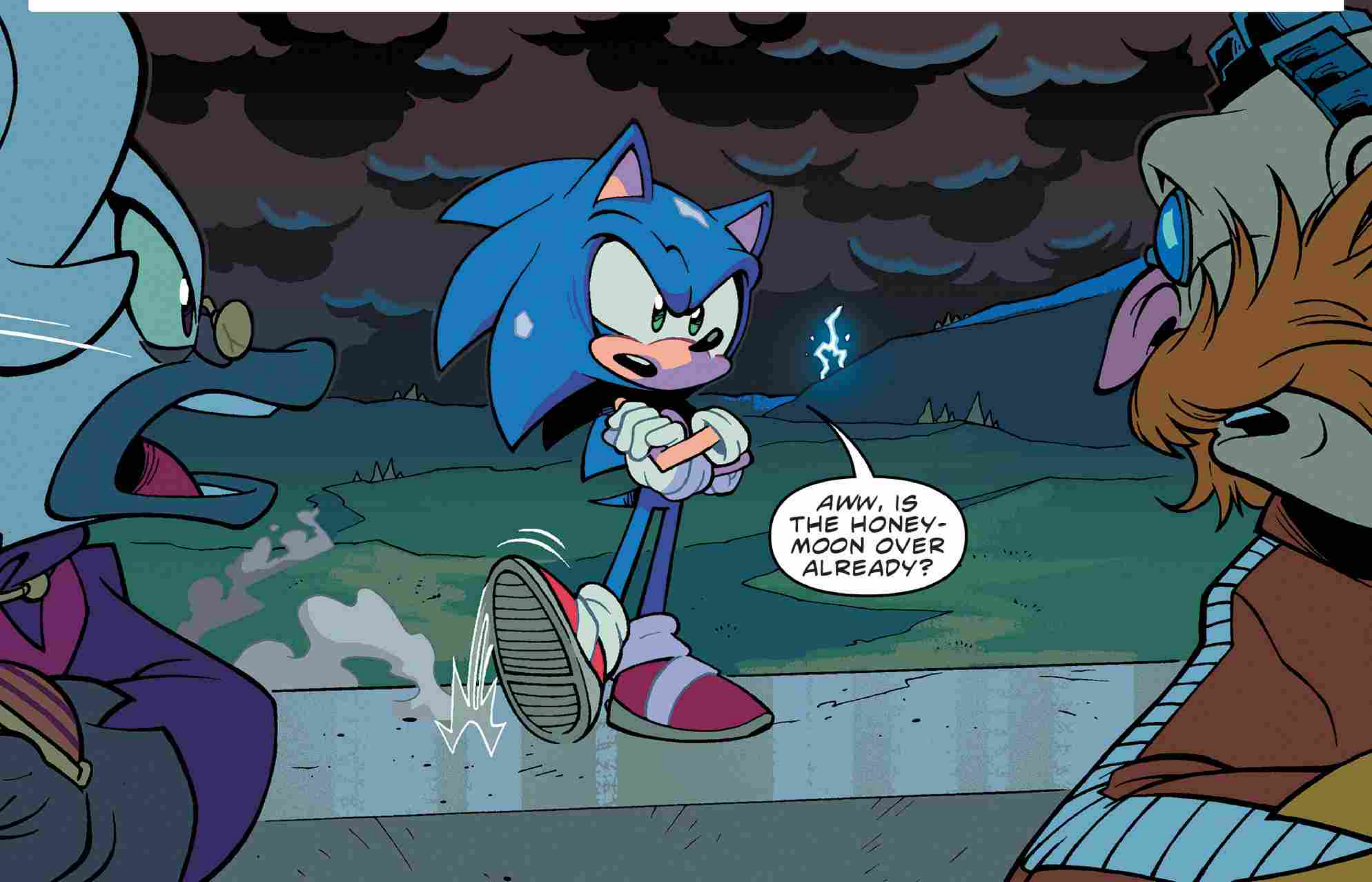
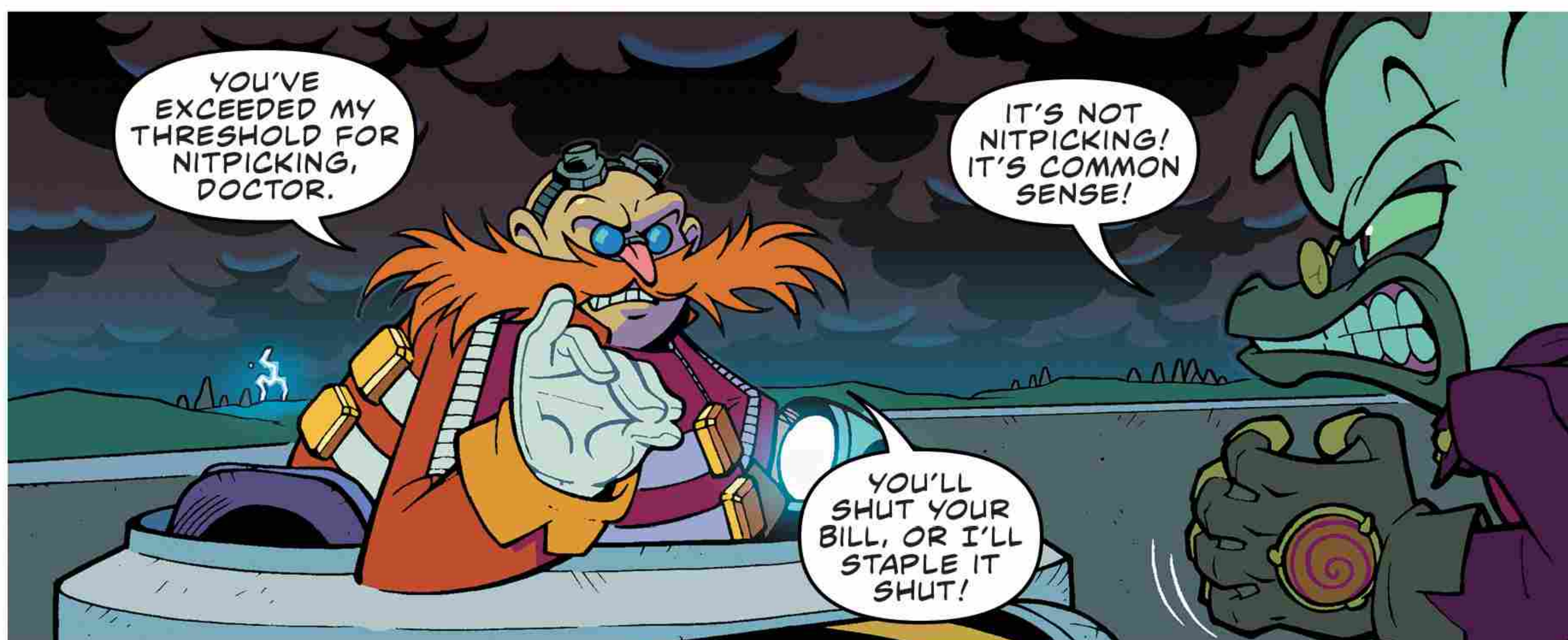
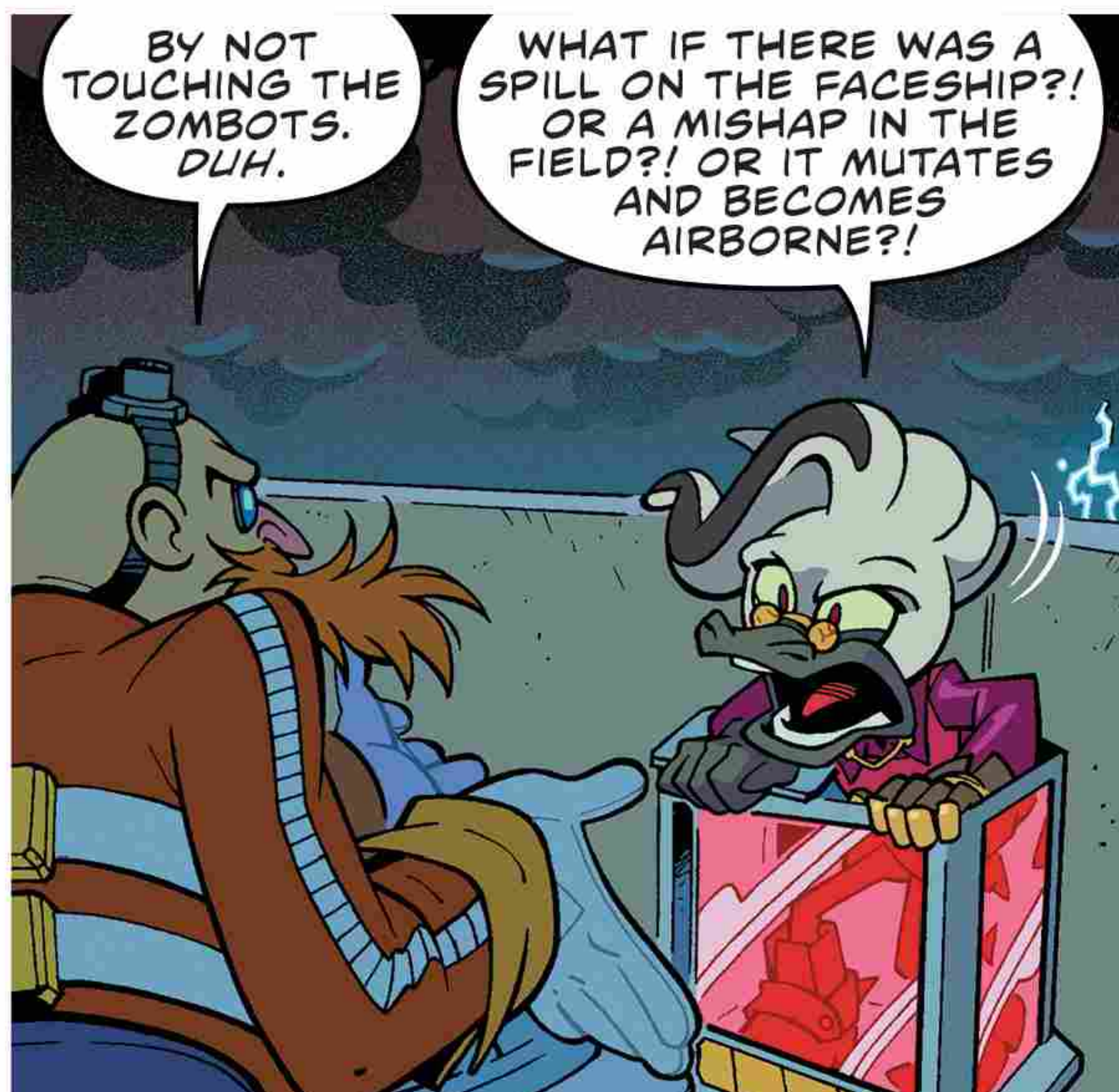
GOTCHA.
STILL, STAY
SAFE.

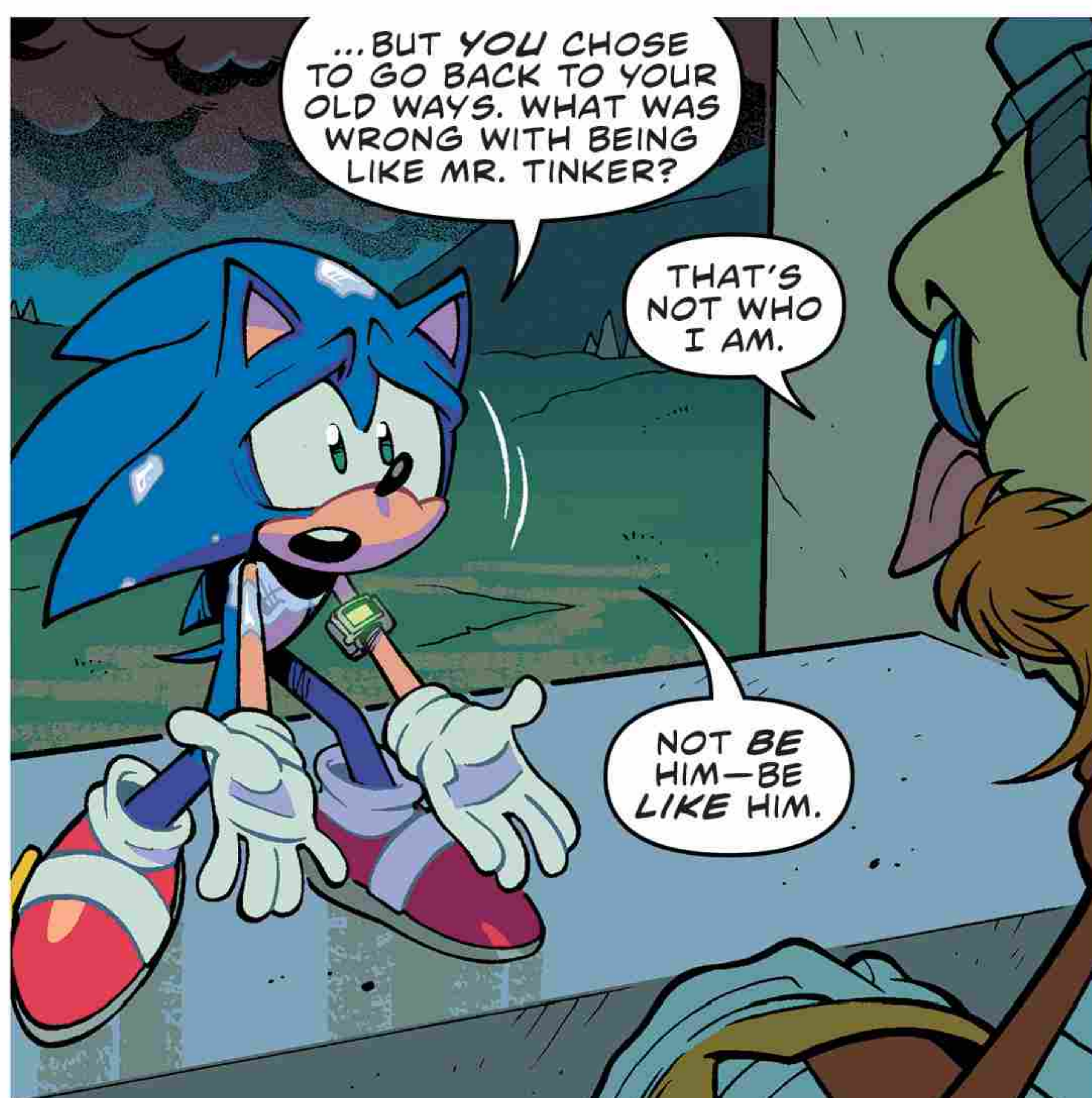
THANKS.
I SHOULD
BE FINE.















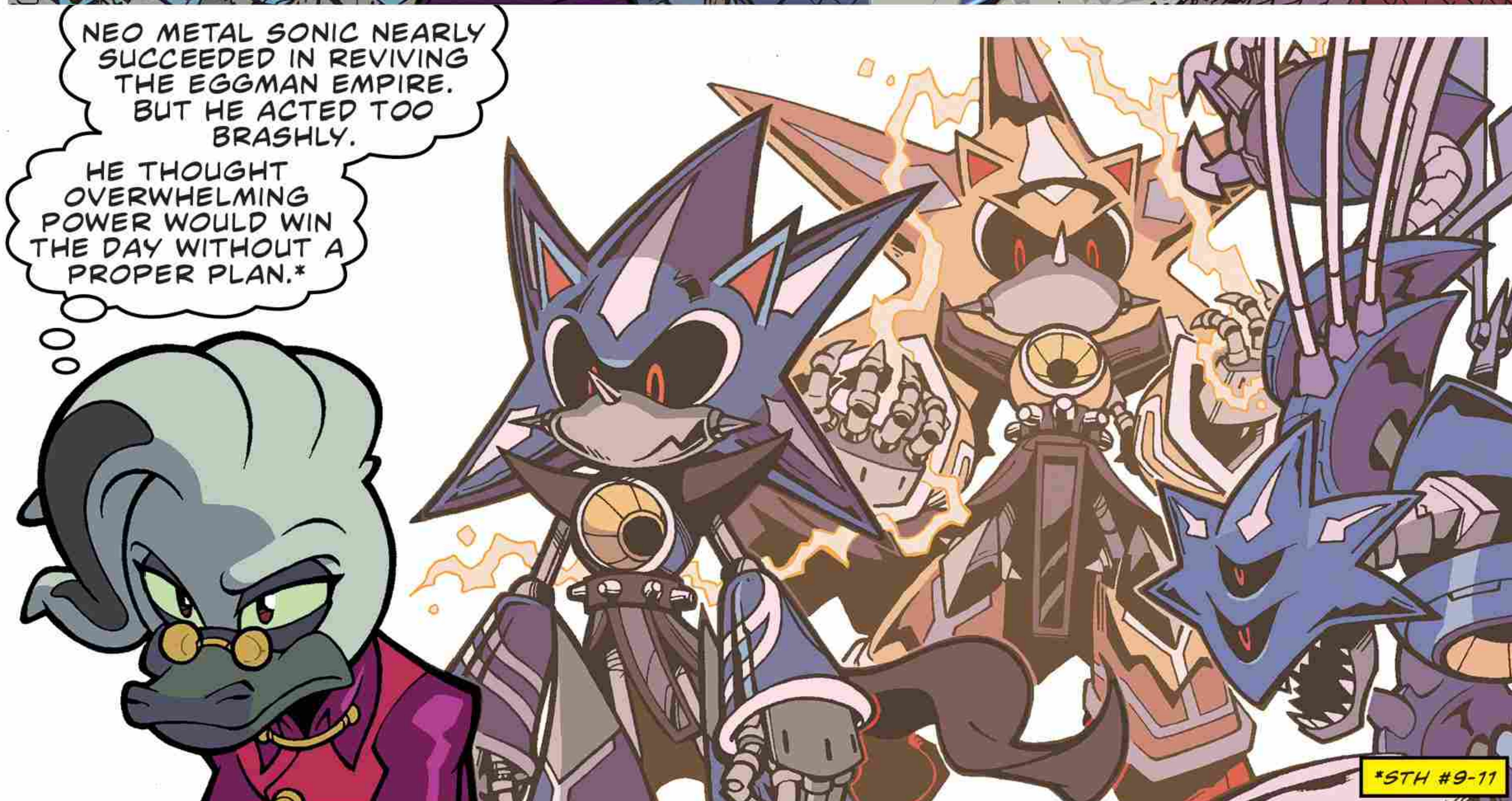


HERE IT IS.
THE SCENE
I'VE DREAMED
OF SEEING
FIRSTHAND.

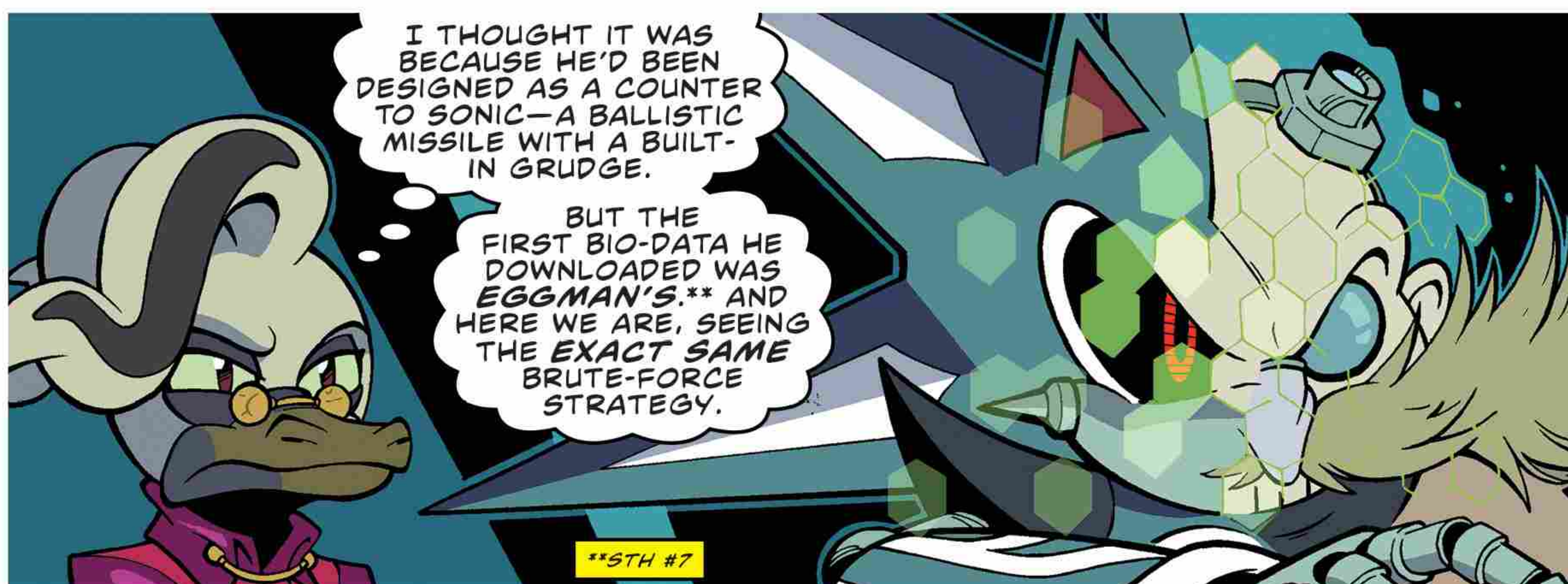
AND ALL
I FEEL IS...
APATHY.

NEO METAL SONIC NEARLY
SUCCEEDED IN REVIVING
THE EGGMAN EMPIRE.
BUT HE ACTED TOO
BRASHLY.

HE THOUGHT
OVERWHELMING
POWER WOULD WIN
THE DAY WITHOUT A
PROPER PLAN.*



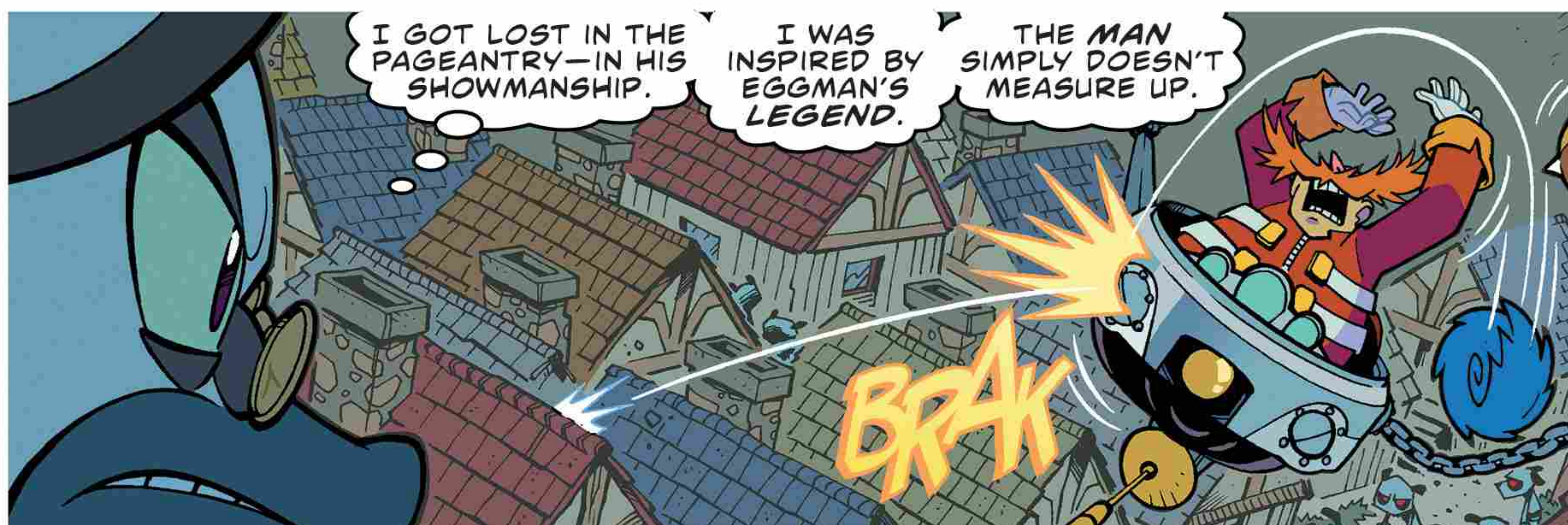
*STH #9-11



I THOUGHT IT WAS
BECAUSE HE'D BEEN
DESIGNED AS A COUNTER
TO SONIC—A BALLISTIC
MISSILE WITH A BUILT-
IN GRUDGE.

BUT THE
FIRST BIO-DATA HE
DOWNLOADED WAS
EGGMAN'S.** AND
HERE WE ARE, SEEING
THE **EXACT SAME**
BRUTE-FORCE
STRATEGY.

**STH #7



I GOT LOST IN THE
PAGEANTRY—IN HIS
SHOWMANSHIP.

I WAS
INSPIRED BY
EGGMAN'S
LEGEND.

THE MAN
SIMPLY DOESN'T
MEASURE UP.

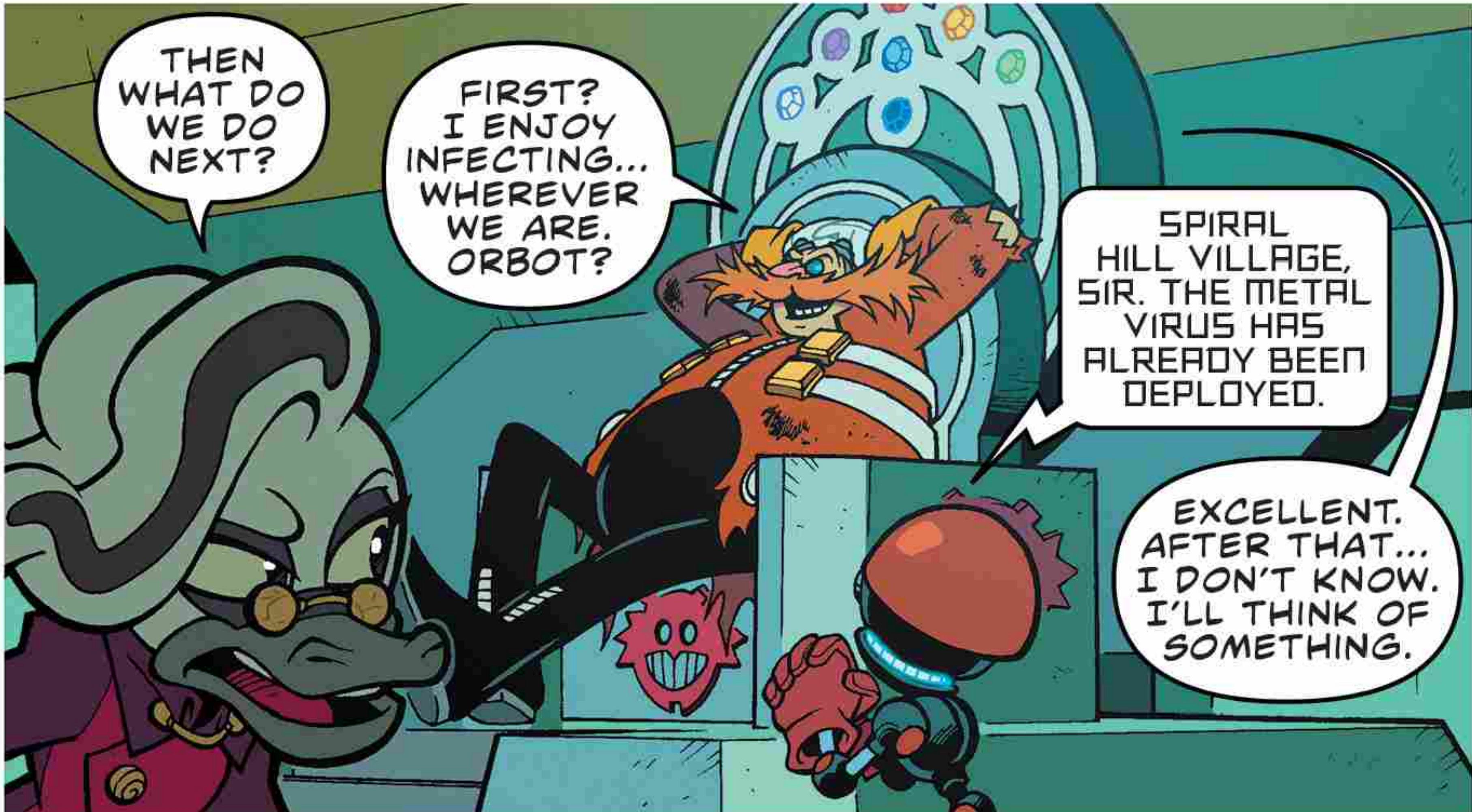
BRAK

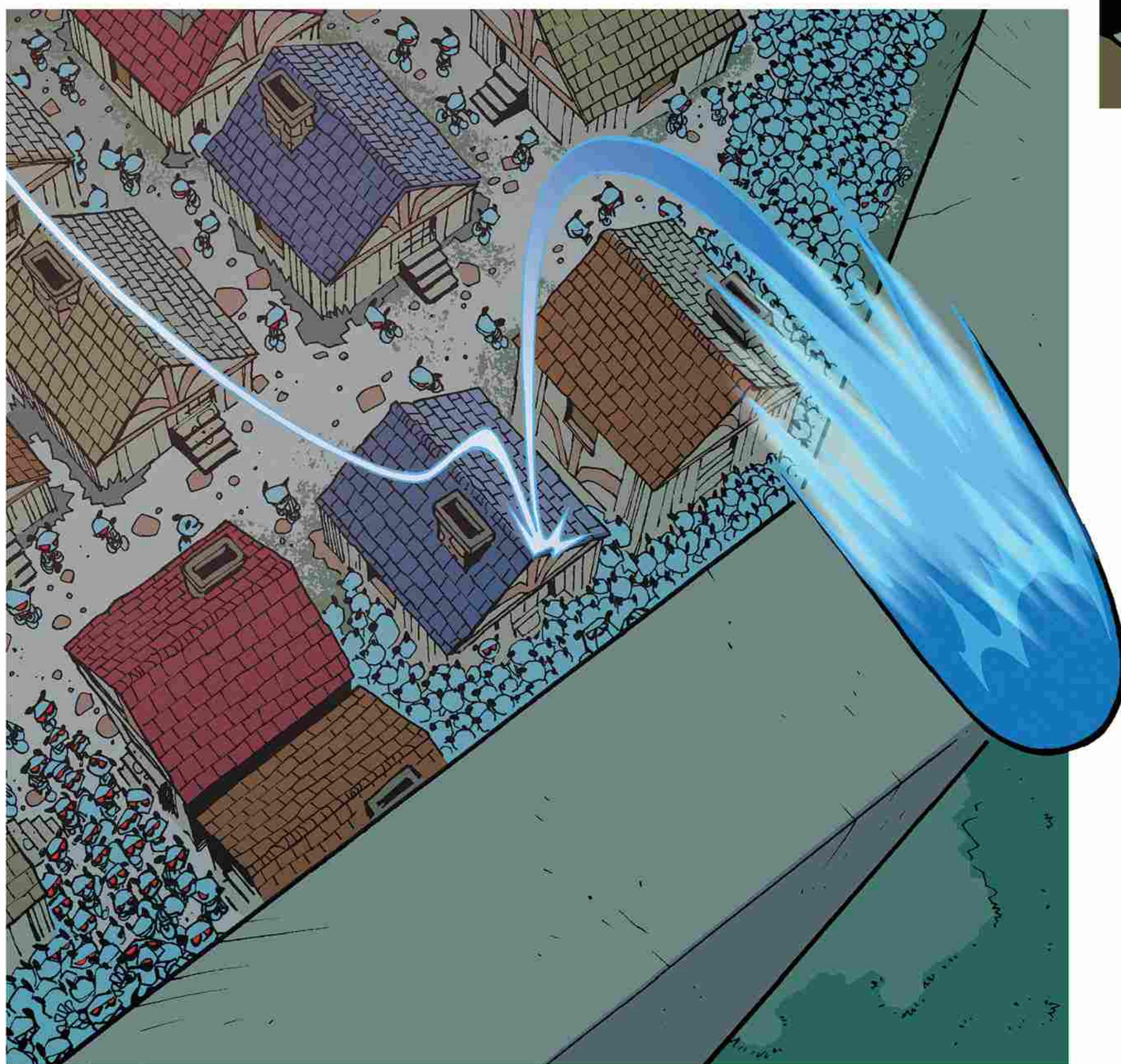














BUT I CAN'T GIVE UP. I'VE GOT TO PROTECT MY FRIENDS WHO ARE STILL SAFE. I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO SAVE THE ONES WHO GOT INFECTED.

I'VE SCREWED UP—A LOT—BUT I STILL HAVE TIME TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.



I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO COLLAPSE, THOUGH. IS THIS WHAT EVERYONE FEELS LIKE AFTER A RUN...?

SONIC. IT'S AMY. ARE YOU THERE?



I'M HERE! ON THE RUN. WHAT'S UP?

LISTEN, I... SONIC, IT'S BAD. RESTORATION BASE HAS FALLEN. ZOMBOTS DESTROYED TAILS'S LAB.

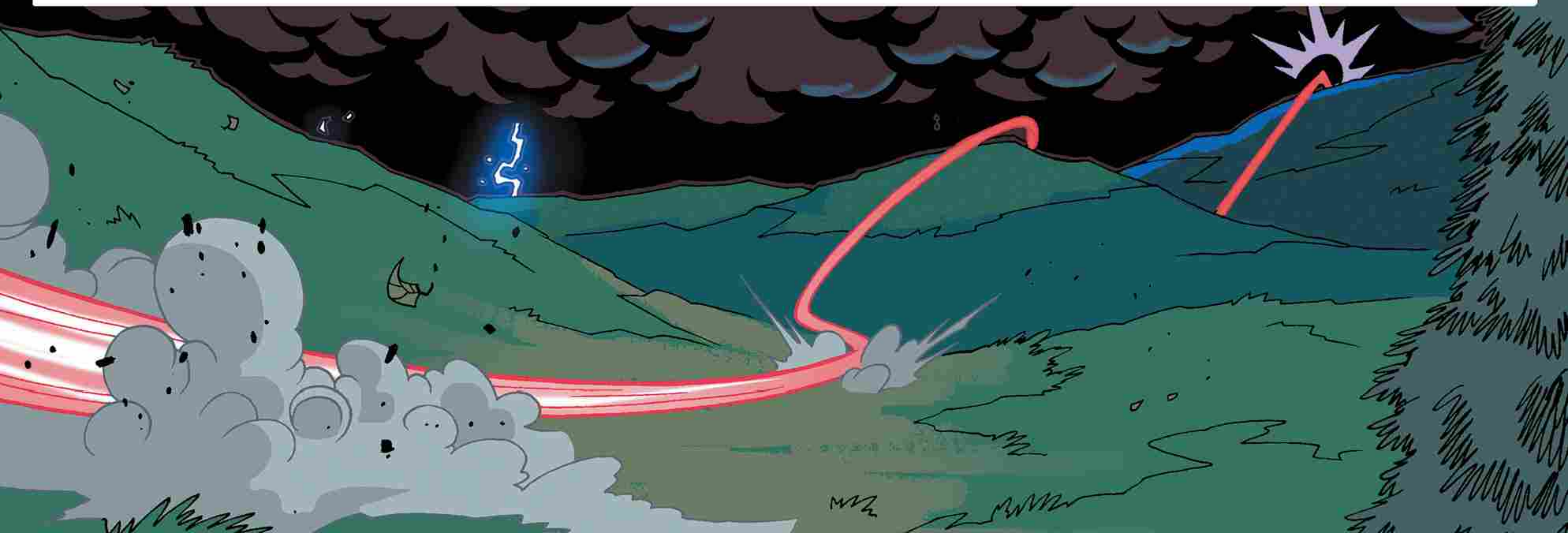


WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO TANGLE'S HOMETOWN TO EVACUATE IT. CAN YOU HELP?

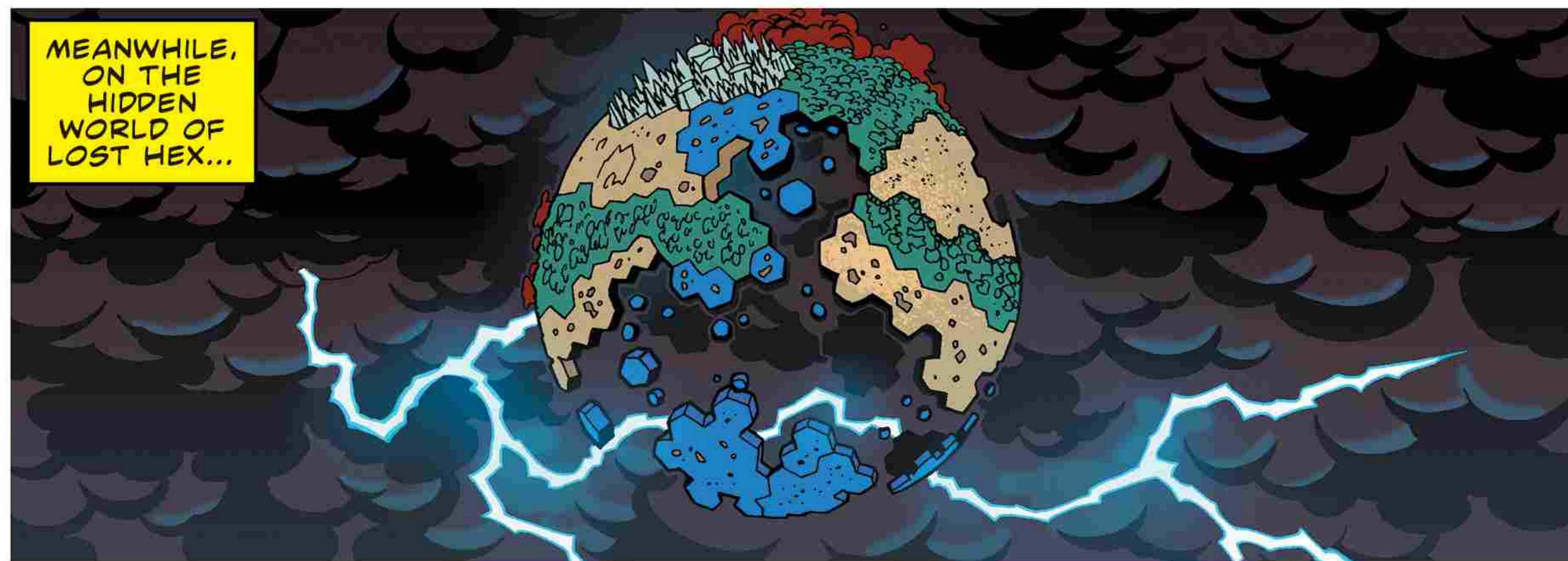
I... YEAH, OF COURSE. I'M ON MY WAY.



HEH... MAN-O-MAN. I GUESS THE GOOD NEWS IS THINGS OFFICIALLY CAN'T GET ANY WORSE!



MEANWHILE,
ON THE
HIDDEN
WORLD OF
LOST HEX...



WE HAVE
BEEN TESTED,
MASTER ZIK.
EGGMAN USED US
AS HIS ENFORCERS.
SONIC HUMILIATED
US IN BATTLE.

THIS WILL
NOT GO
UNANSWERED.

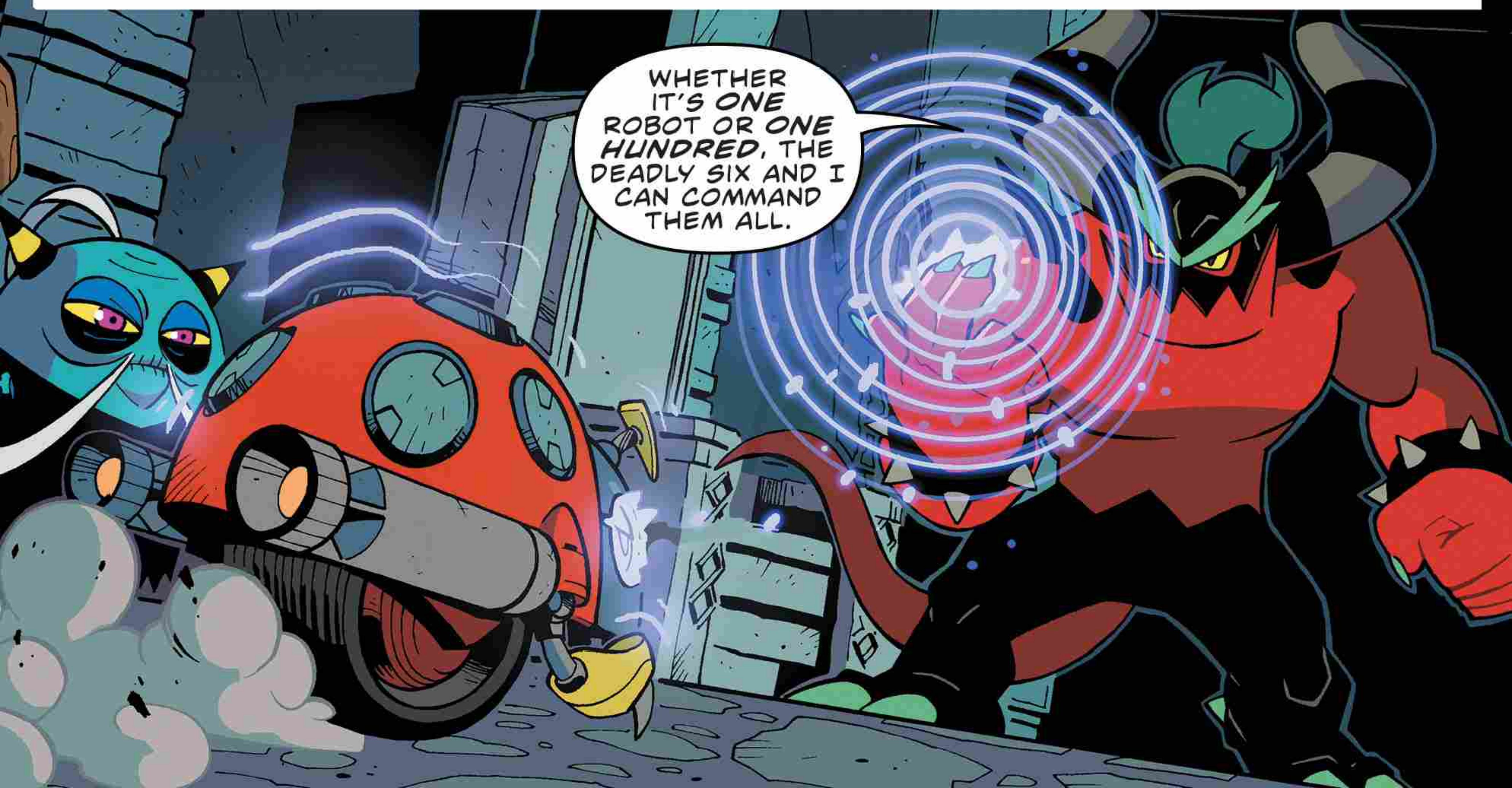


BUT VENGEANCE MUST BE
EXACT. IT WAS WISE OF
YOU TO HAVE US BIDE OUR
TIME, LETTING OUR
HATRED AND ANGER
FESTER.



AND
NOW OUR
PATIENCE
HAS PAID
OFF.











SONIC LETTERS SQUAD

Hello Squad! Seems like everything's gone a little bit (or a lot) wrong for our heroes. But Sonic's still running off the infection and he sent Drs. Eggman and Starline packing, so that's a win! Once more, it all came down to "The Last Minute, Part 3" by Ian Flynn, Jack Lawrence, Matt Herms, and Shawn Lee! As Sonic races to Spiral Hill, let's take a look at your art and letters!

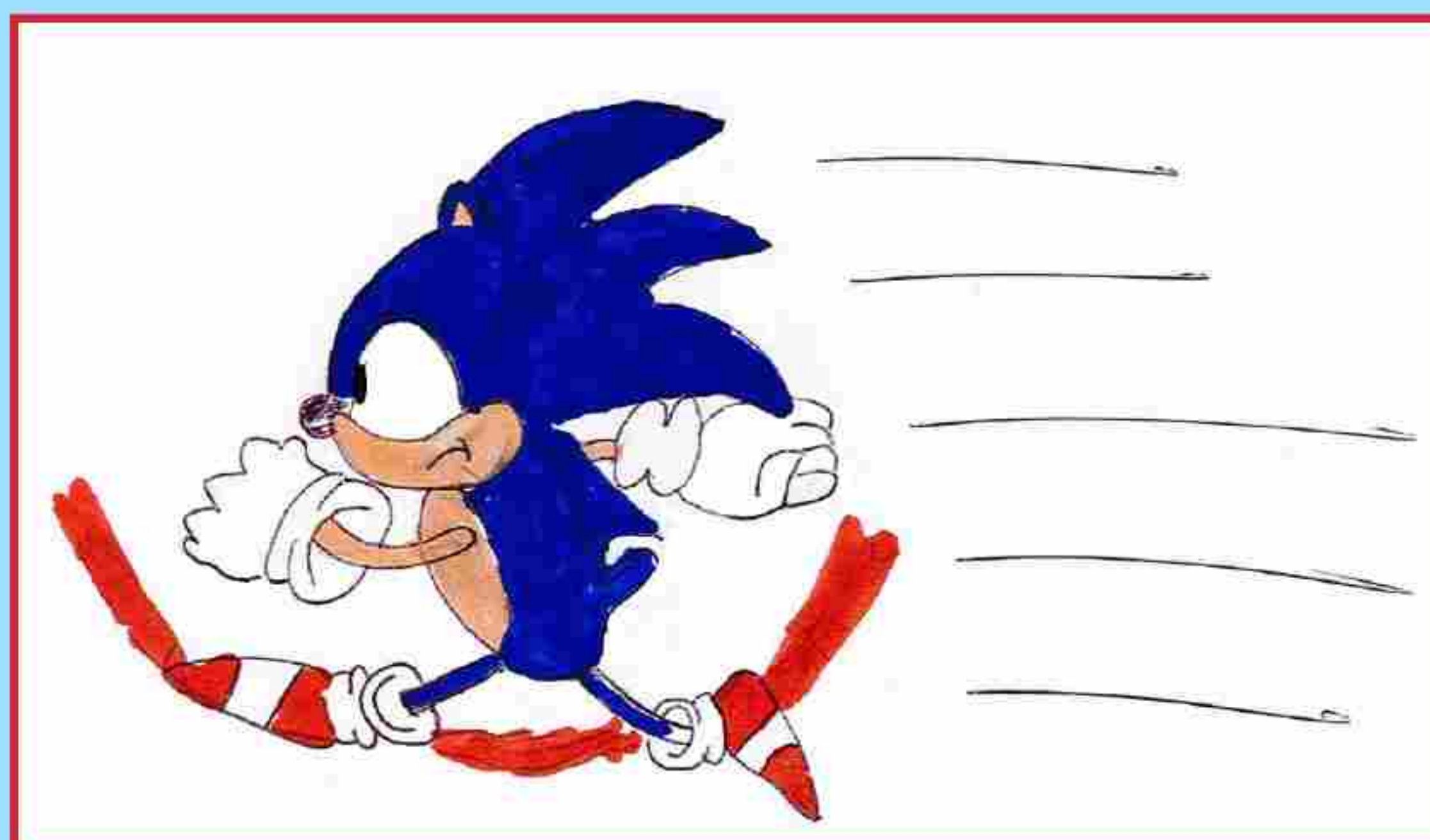
Hello!

I have played couple of Sonic games, but I didn't know much about the characters. I had really weird expectations and prejudices. I thought, for example, that Knuckles and Vector were bad guys, lol. xD So, I wanted to learn more about all the characters in Sonic's world and that's when I found your awesome comics. I've enjoyed reading them because the story arcs are interesting and solving these crises brings together a lot of team members. My favorite characters are Knuckles, Silver, Espio, and Whisper, and it's so cool that they all have been included in a current storyline (well, we haven't seen Knux for a while, but that's okay, because he had a quite big role rescuing Angel Island early on). I don't even know why I'm writing this with my terrible English skills, but anyway, I want to thank your team for all the hard work that you put for making these comics.

Kasa

Hi Kasa,

Glad we could help you out with more context—and seems like we got you from thinking Knuckles was a bad guy to having him be one of your favorites, so that's pretty cool! You're right, the current crises have brought everyone together and then a lot of them have become zombots... But, you bring up a good question: where is Knuckles in all this chaos? Maybe we'll get to see him sometime soon!



Art by Fraser Mackie

Hello to the Sonic Comic Squad:

I'm Emily Ann, and I've been a loyal and proud Sonic fan since early 2013, and I've specifically been a Tails fan ever since. He's been very inspirational and encouraging for me throughout my darkest times, starting with a tragic loss in my life; it was Tails's experiences throughout the canon that have come together and helped me learn to believe in myself and just keep going through my daily struggles, especially with me being on the Autism Spectrum. Life's hard for both of us, so I've always been able to relate. Anyways, I've fully enjoyed the Sonic comics here since the very beginning. I've collected every single last issue, and right now, the 22nd issue came out, and the Metal Virus arc has left me wanting more at the end of each issue. I'm very attached to the comics and honored to be an excited reader. I hope what's to come continues to excite me like it has thus far. Kudos to Ian Flynn for his amazing work as a main writer!

From a loyal fan,
Emily Ann Lancman

Hi Emily,

Thanks for sharing your story and we're glad to hear that you're enjoying the comics. Life really can be hard, as shown in the past few issues, but even when things are tough, the heroes stick it out and do the right thing. We're very glad to hear that resonates with you and if it's true for you, it's true for other readers, too. Sorry for the lack of Tails in this one, but I'm sure you'll find in upcoming issues that Tails is keeping at it and trying to save the day, even after the loss of his lab and the cure.



Art by Calum Menelaws



Art by Torin

Hey there IDW Sonic Team!

I want to say that I really admire your work and the time and effort you put into writing these stories! I do like how the series has a more serious tone than the games! I hope we see more of that in the future! I love the games and how the comic can derive from the source material and expand upon it! It really goes to show that the team puts time and effort into it and I love it! And I'd like to ask a few questions:

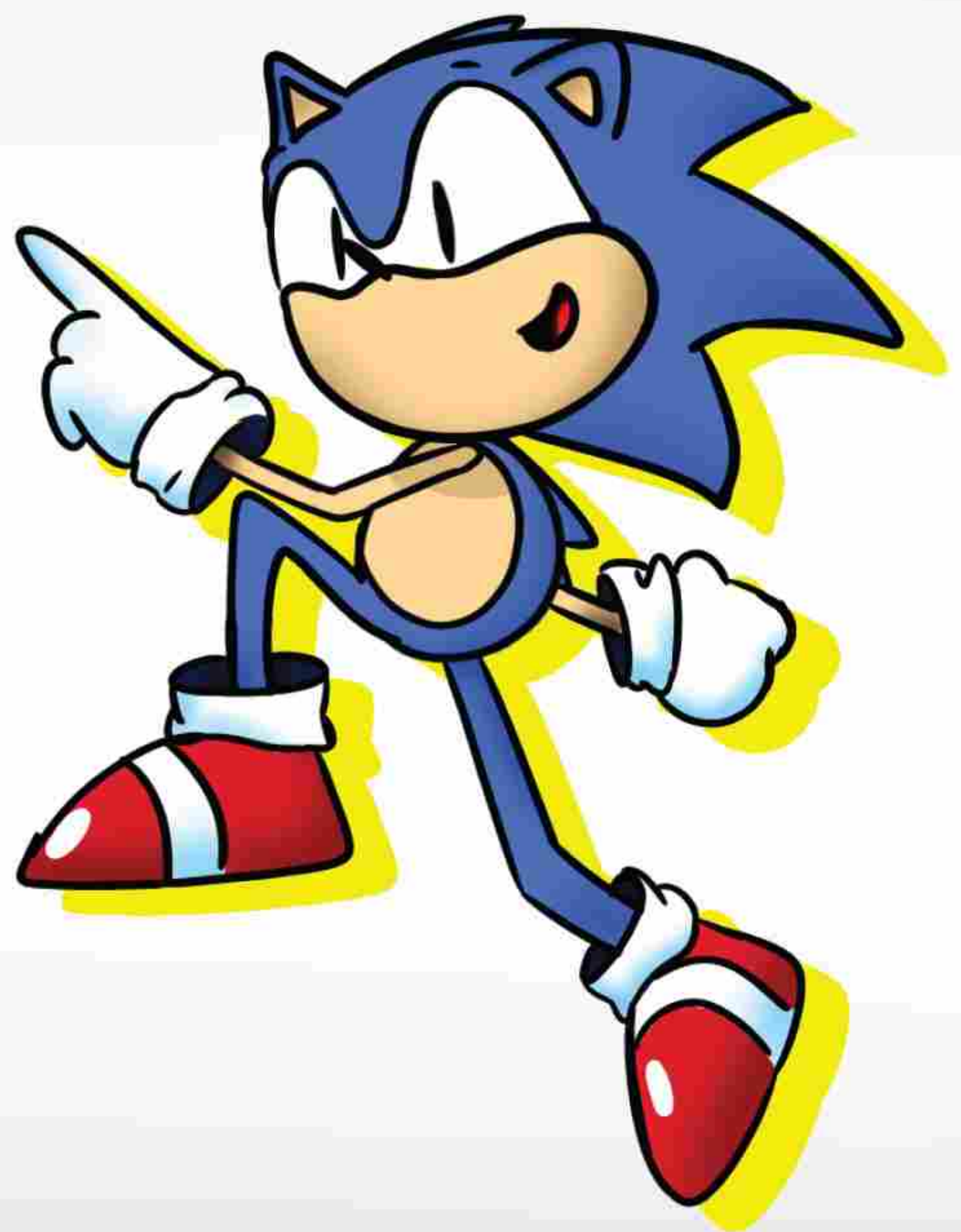
1. Will we see more new artists in the series? It'd be cool to see other artists give the series it's own style in each issue!
2. Will there be more villains independent of Eggman and his Empire?
3. In the far, far, far away future... will we see a glimpse at Sonic's multiverse? I know it's HIGHLY unlikely, but is it possible?
4. Will artists like Tyson Hesse and Patrick Spaziante return in the future?
5. Will we see more unique pairings with the cast in future stories?

Stay awesome!
Matthew

Hi Matthew!

Wow, those are a lot of really great questions! We'll try to quickly answer them all (and very much appreciate your kind words about the series)!

1. Last issue, #22 was Priscilla Tramontano's first solo issue, so I'd say she counts as a new artist (and did a fantastic job)! But we always love finding new talented folks to contribute to Sonic, so more artists are always a possibility.
2. More independent villains, hmm? Well, I guess you'll have to keep reading to find out, but technically, the Deadly 6 aren't part of Eggman's crew.
3. There are a lot of great iterations of Sonic, but at least for the foreseeable future, we're focused on this one exclusively.
4. It's all about scheduling, but we did get Tyson Hesse to do a cover to the upcoming issue #25, out in January!
5. Yes.



Art by Jorge Arturo Reyes Puerta

I'm gonna be blunt, I've been a fan of Sonic the Hedgehog for about 2 weeks now. I played one of the games on a whim, and had such a surprising amount of fun that I've completed a total of 7 games, wikidived like no other, and have even been watching quite a few of the animated series on the side. I have also just blasted through the currently released issues for the new Sonic comic, and I am absolutely enthralled. This has absolutely been my favorite Sonic-related media so far, between the absolutely amazing artwork that flows beautifully and shows character expression to its fullest and the writing that perfectly represents every single character in such unique and engaging scenarios, I truly am just blown away. Sonic has quickly become such a huge source of joy to me, and this comic is definitely something I'll remain eager for as long as it's running. Can't wait to read more!

Argie Smith

Hi Argie!

We know it has been a few months since we first received this letter, so we're pretty sure you've been a fan for more than two weeks, but it's amazing to hear about how deeply invested you've become and how much you like the comic. To consume that much Sonic in such a short amount of time and still say that we're your favorite means a lot to everyone working on the book, and I hope you've been enjoying all things Sonic since you first sent in your letter!

Thanks for joining us, Squad!

Don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next issue, we're back in Spiral Hill Village for "The Last One Out"!

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ARTIST ADAM BRYCE THOMAS
COLORIST ELAINA UNGER
LETTERING SHAWN LEE
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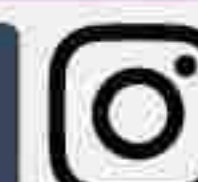
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HERE WE
ARE—TEAM
SONIC—ON
PLANET WISP.

DRIVING CARS FAST
ENOUGH TO ENTERTAIN
EVEN SONIC, ON CRAZY
TRACKS STOCKED WITH
WISP POWER-UPS.



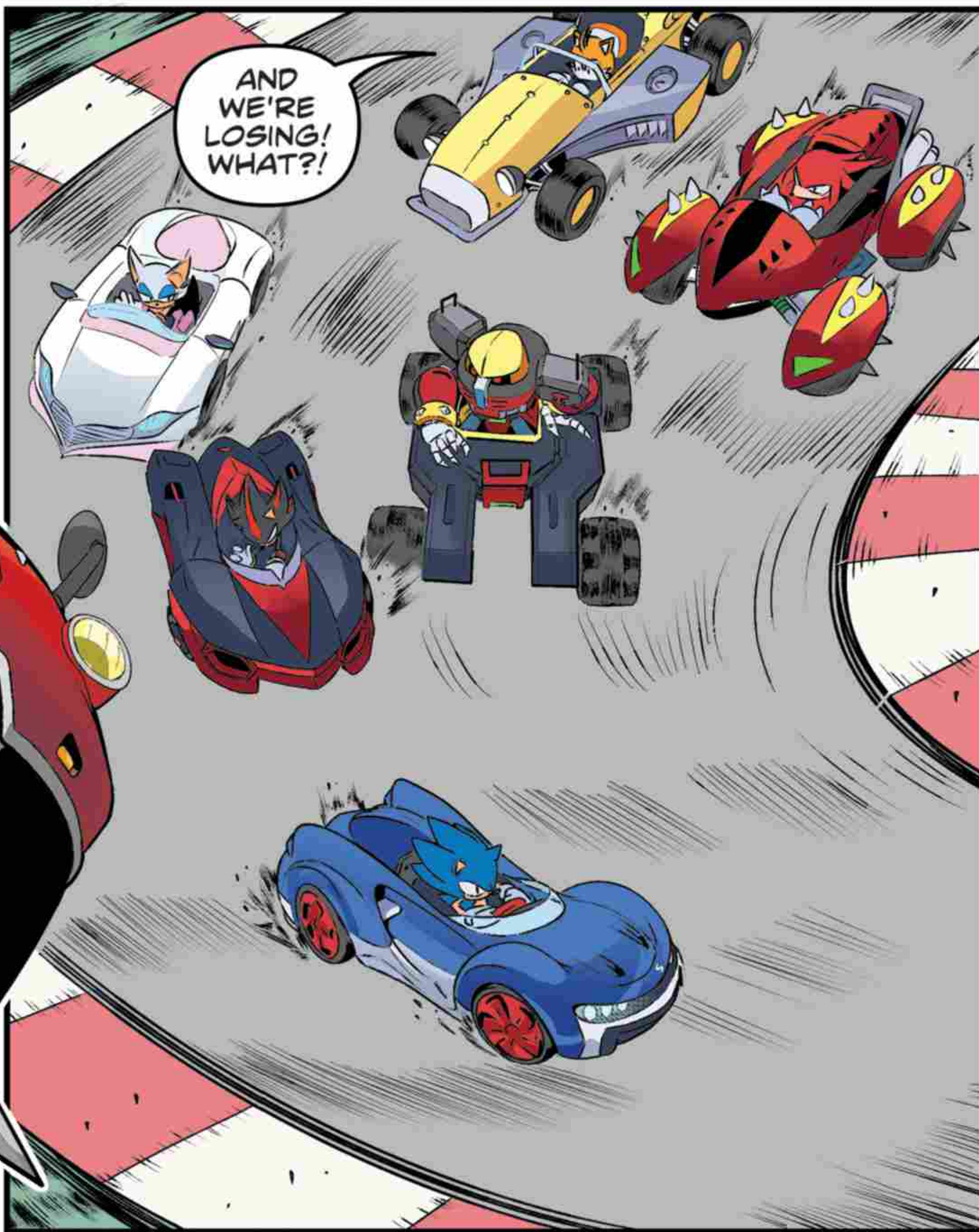
ALL FOR AN ECCENTRIC
MYSTERY MAN, DODON PA.
NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE
COMES FROM OR WHY HE
HOSTS RACES.



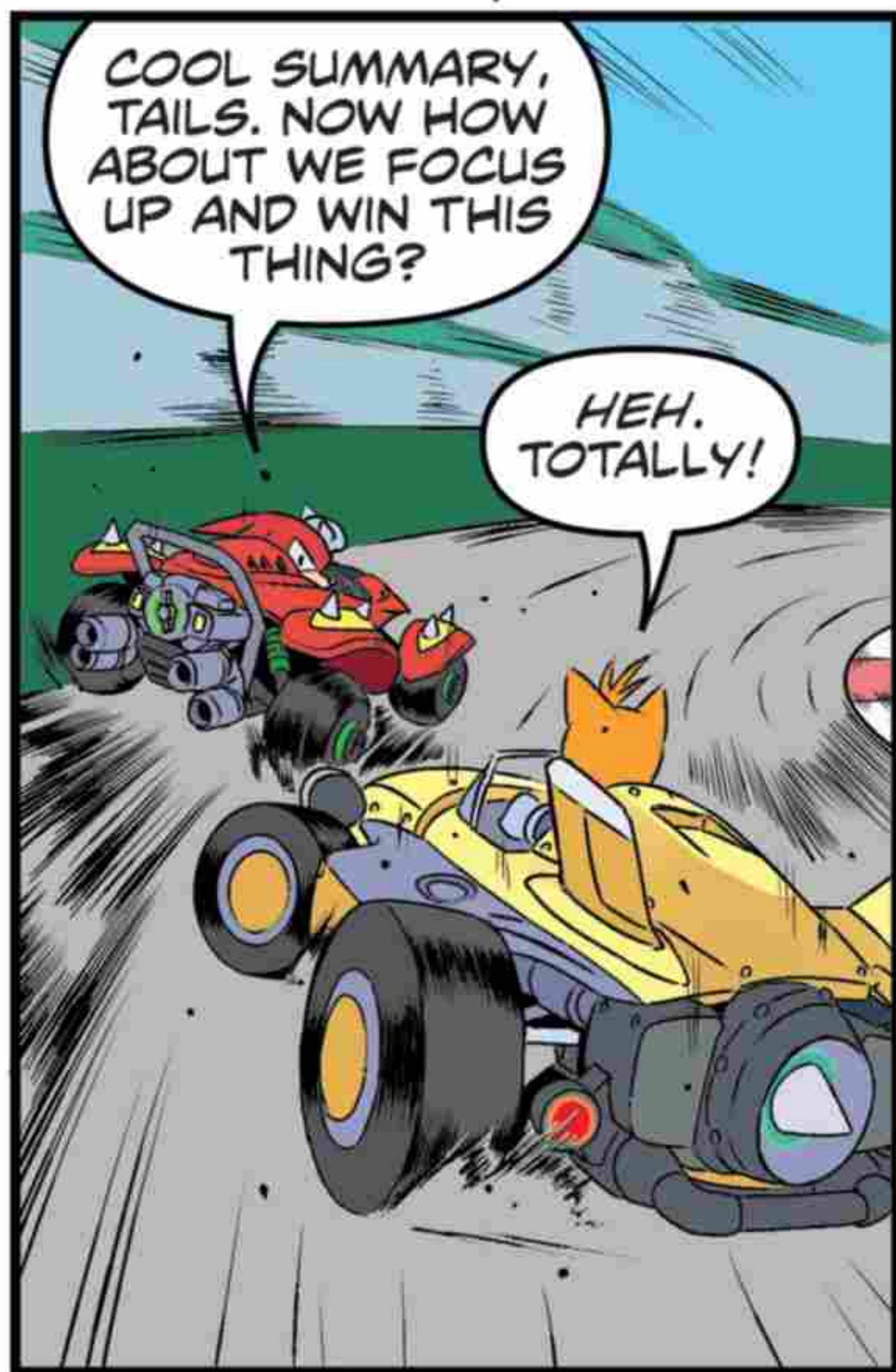
BLUE
HEDGEHOG OR
BLACK HEDGEHOG?
WHO WILL SURVIVE?
HOHOHOHO.



SERIOUSLY, I WONDER. THEY'RE BOTH PRETTY GOOD...



AND WE'RE LOSING! WHAT?!



COOL SUMMARY, TAILS. NOW HOW ABOUT WE FOCUS UP AND WIN THIS THING?

HEH. TOTALLY!



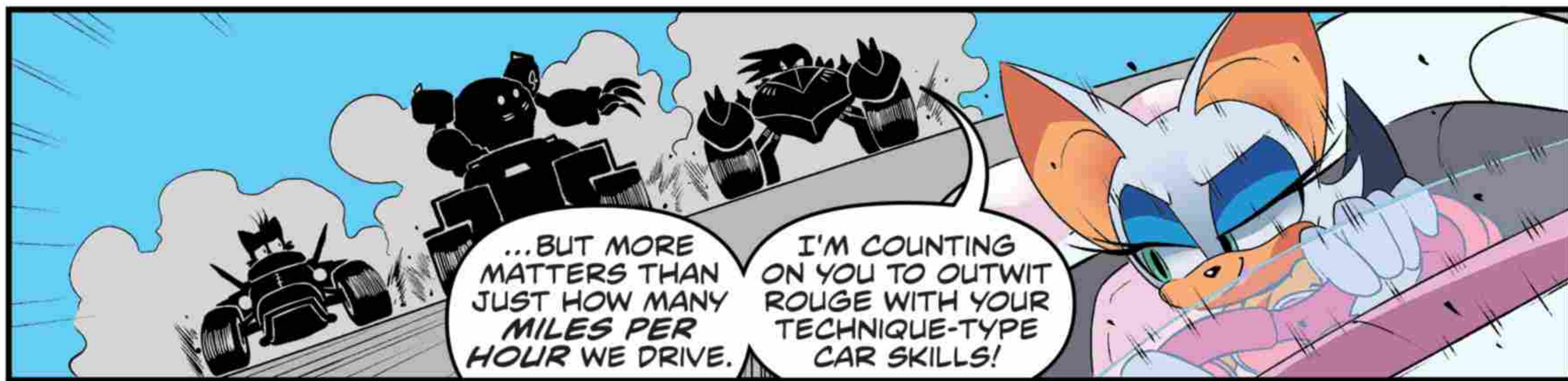
SONIC AND SHADOW ARE OFF IN THEIR OWN LITTLE WORLD IN THEIR SPEED-TYPE CARS, BUT WE'VE GOTTA MAKE SURE TO WIN, TOO.

RIGHT! WE'VE GOT THE TEAM SCORE TO THINK ABOUT.



BRING-THE-PAIN PROTOCOLS INITIATED.

HNGH! I CAN HANDLE OMEGA IN MY POWER-TYPE RACER...



...BUT MORE MATTERS THAN JUST HOW MANY MILES PER HOUR WE DRIVE.

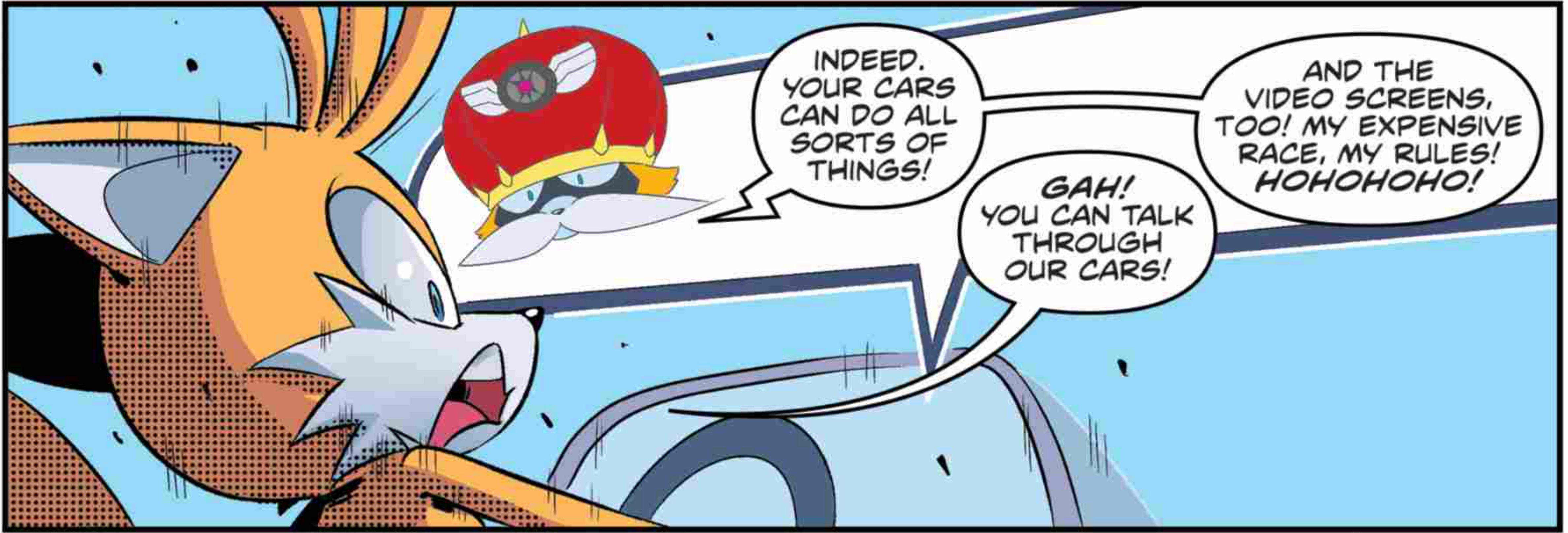
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO OUTWIT ROUGE WITH YOUR TECHNIQUE-TYPE CAR SKILLS!



ROGER. I'VE NOTICED EVERYONE'S CAR HAS A UNIQUE SLIPSTREAM.

I THINK THAT'S THE KEY TO USING KINETIC CONTACT TO OUR ADVANTAGE!

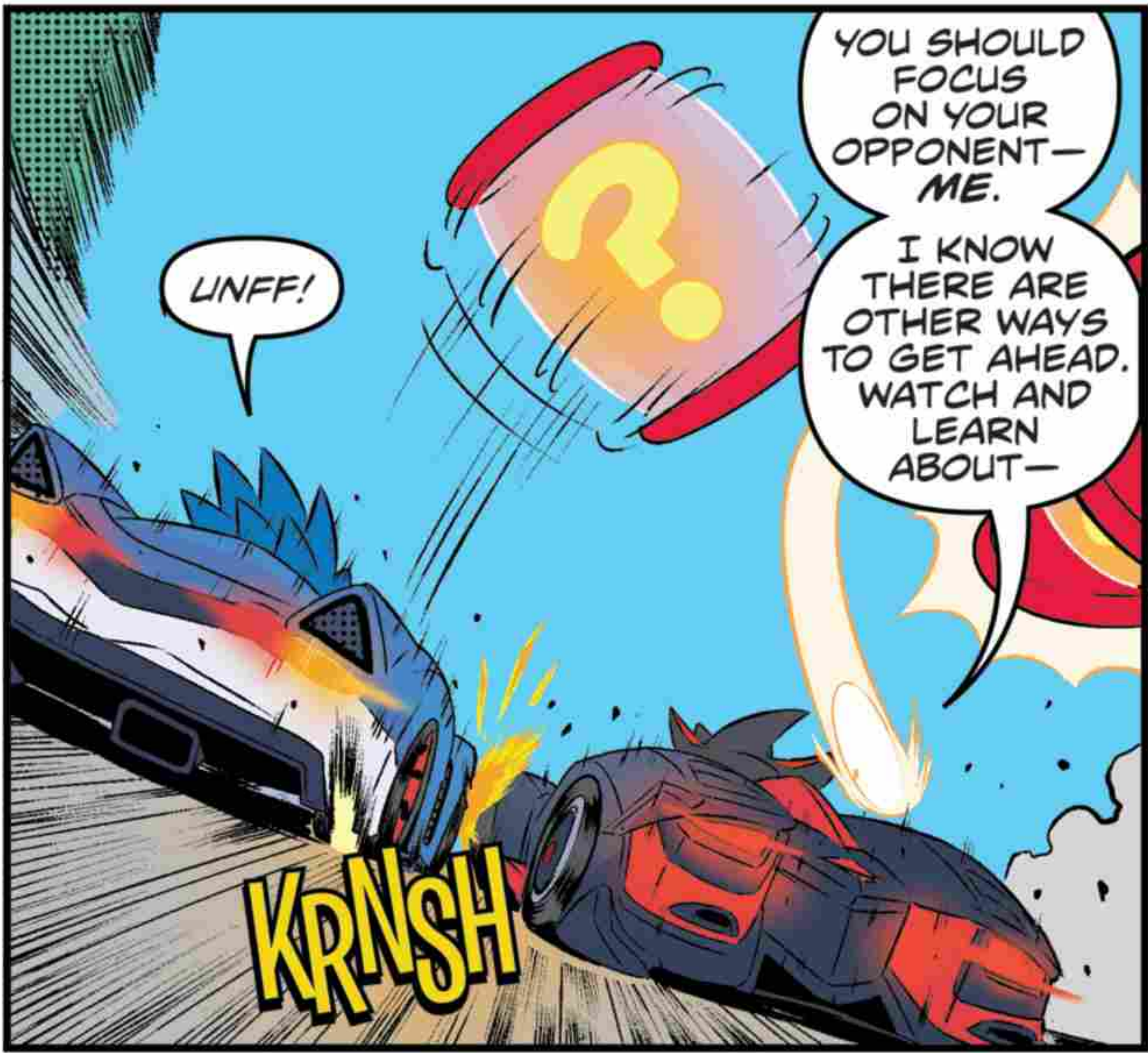
SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE WE SHOULD CALL YOU "BRAINS" INSTEAD OF "TAILS."



INDEED. YOUR CARS CAN DO ALL SORTS OF THINGS!

AND THE VIDEO SCREENS, TOO! MY EXPENSIVE RACE, MY RULES! HOHOHOHO!

GAH! YOU CAN TALK THROUGH OUR CARS!



UNFF!

YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON YOUR OPPONENT—ME.

I KNOW THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO GET AHEAD. WATCH AND LEARN ABOUT—

KRNSH

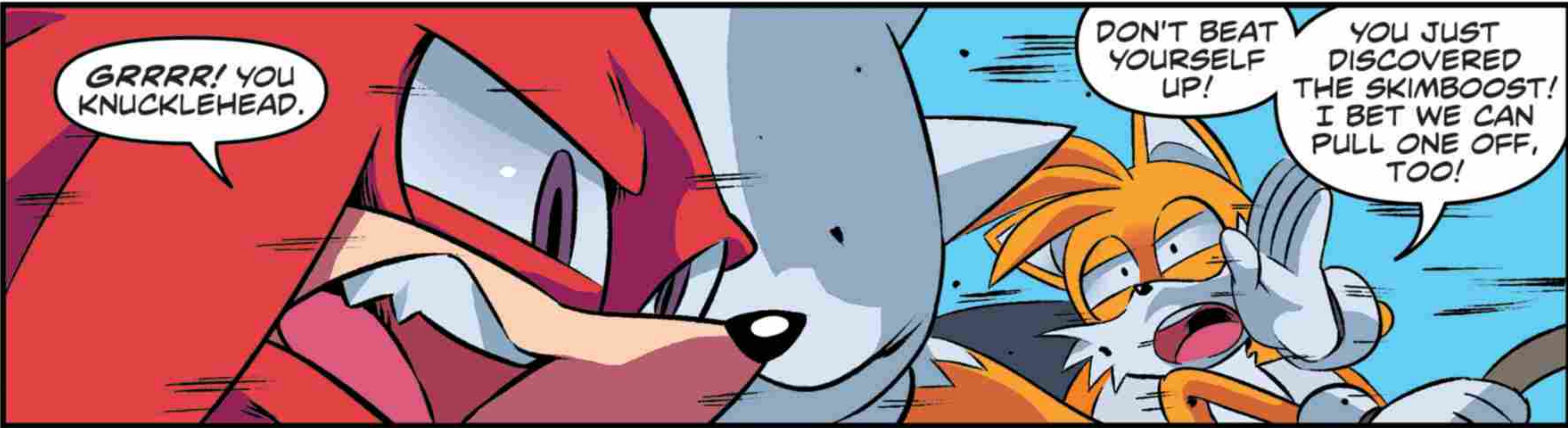
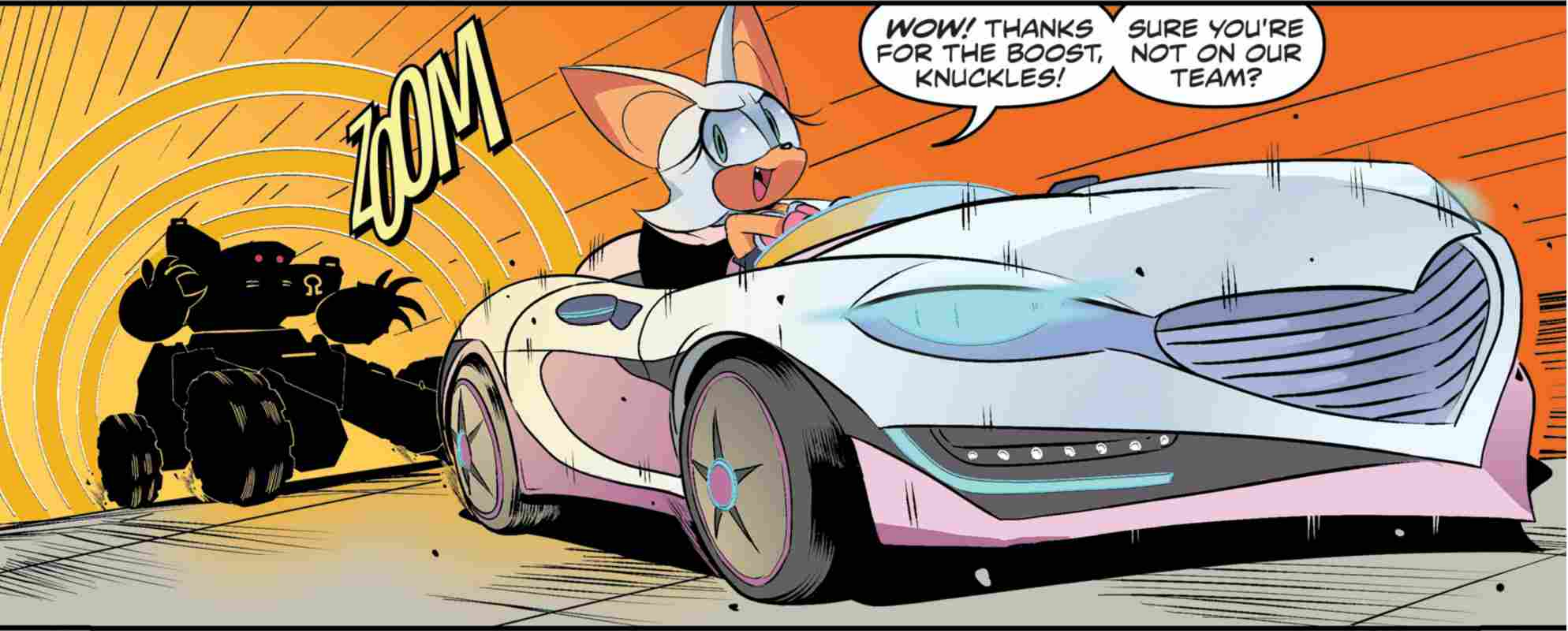
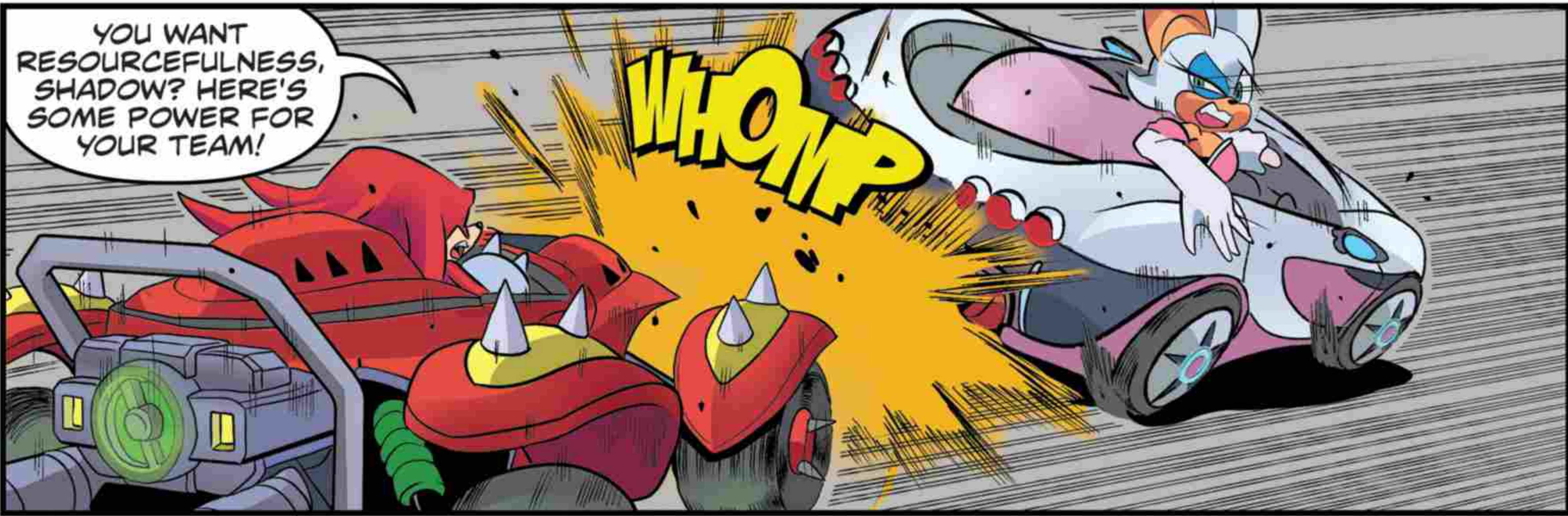


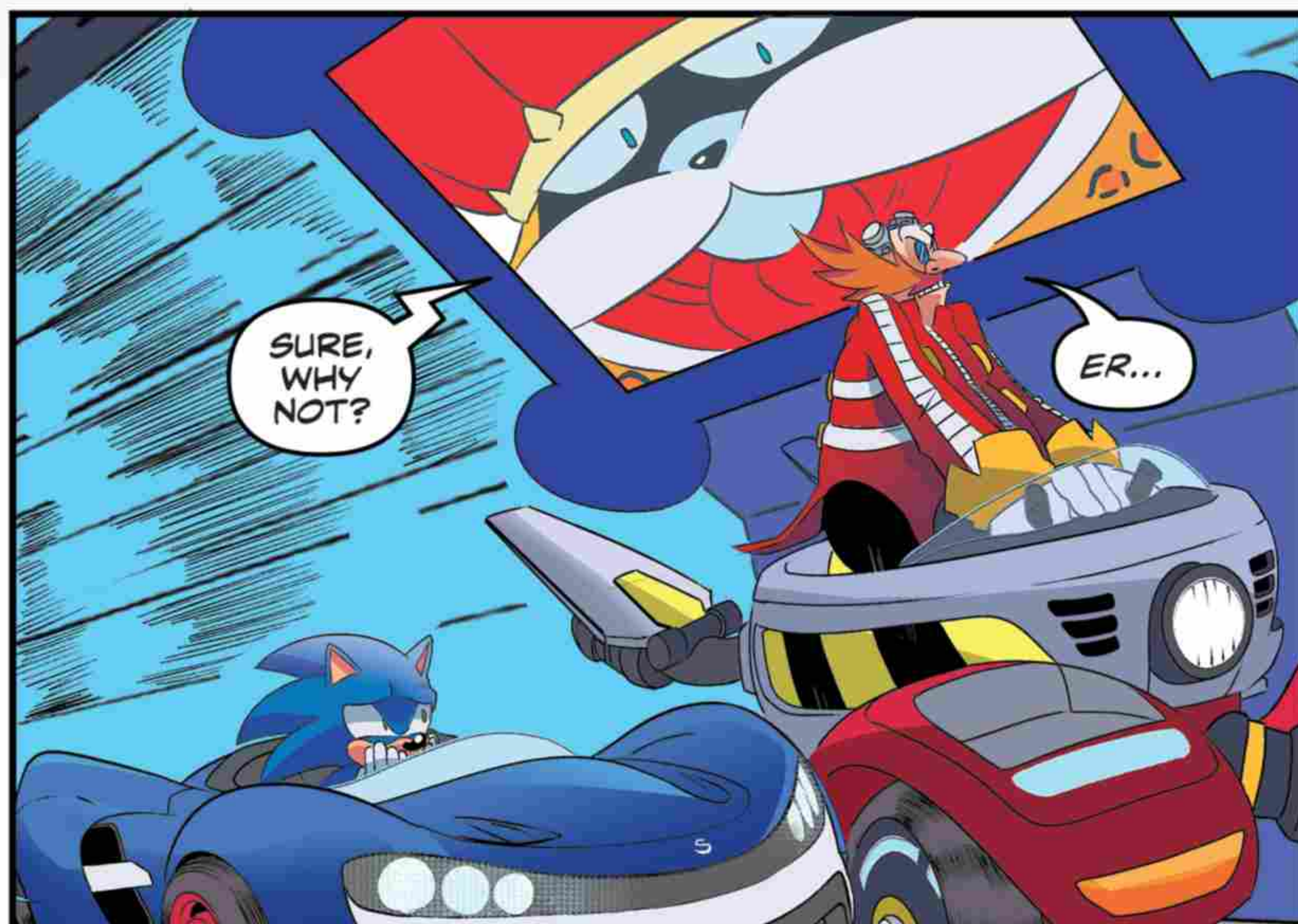
—RESOURCEFULNESS.



NOT COOL, WISPS!

I THOUGHT WE WERE POWER-UP PALS!





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